



THIS DO IN REMEMBRANCE *of Me*

MATT 26:20-30

A SERMON BY
Rev. Dr. Howard-John Wesley

COMMEMORATING WORLD
COMMUNION SUNDAY 2019

Sunday, October 6, 2019

Preacher: Rev. Dr. Howard-John Wesley

Sermon: This Do In Remembrance of Me

Scripture: Matthew 26:20-30



CURRICULUM GUIDE



Sermon Summary

In recognition of World Communion Sunday, Pastor Wesley walks us through Jesus' invitation to the communion table. The table represents that we are in fellowship with God, and whenever we take communion we are proclaiming and remembering the work Jesus did on the cross.

The table is a reminder that:

1. Grace creates space for the unworthy to be in a relationship with God.
2. God covers us and protects us from exposure.
3. God gives us an invitation for self-reflection that triggers self-conviction.
4. We are all sinners and therefore, we ought to be careful of kicking out other sinners.
5. We are forgiven but we must choose to receive it.

Notes for Facilitators:

As you begin your 4th week of Village, it's a good idea to keep your eyes open for ways that your Village can "share the load." Perhaps some individuals in your group could lead part of the conversation or maybe some individuals are ready to take on some of the hosting responsibilities. We've found that Village is always more enjoyable when we share responsibility.

Getting To Know You Questions:

1. What were the communion practices of your childhood church? What didn't you understand? What do you miss? What are the differences in how communion is observed at Alfred Street?
2. How do you prepare yourself to reflect inwardly before participating in communion? When does that reflection take place?
3. Pastor Wesley opened by joking about some "old school" Baptist church practices that were quite common just 30 years ago. Imagine the year is 2050. What practices do we currently do at Alfred Street that you think we'll be laughing about in 30 years?



Into The Bible Questions:

1. This week's sermon examined Matthew's account of the Lord's Supper. Take a look at the other gospel accounts of this story listed below. What differences do you notice? How might these affect your view of communion?
 - a) Mark 14:12-25
 - b) Luke 22:14-30
 - c) John 6:35-52 and John 13:1-20
2. In John 3:16 and Ephesians 2:8-9 we are reminded that Jesus voluntarily came to die on the cross for our sins, and the importance of appreciating the depth of God's grace. How can we share forgiveness and offer grace in the same manner that God has given to us?

Life Application Questions:

1. Pastor Wesley said, "there are no big or little sins." Which sins have you incorrectly labeled as big or small? Acknowledging that we are also sinners, how should this shape our interactions with coworkers, family or friends?
2. The sermon reminds us that God's grace calls us to tables that we are not worthy to sit at. Share with the group tables at which God has placed you and how you know it was God's doing.
3. Pastor Wesley said that Jesus announced that He would be betrayed but did not expose Judas, the betrayer. How can you follow the Lord's example and show love to someone who has betrayed (wronged) you?
4. Pastor Wesley taught us that the writers used Dramatic Irony when Judas was introduced in scripture (as the one who betrayed Jesus).
 - a) Have you ever been identified by your sin? How did that affect your relationship with others?
 - b) Has anyone ever been introduced to you with their sin attached? How did that affect your approach to them? Did you learn that they were more than how they were identified?
5. Pastor Wesley reminded us that, "the word is still at work," regardless of Judas' actions. Share a moment when you experienced God's word working and coming to fruition despite looking like it would not work out. How did God keep you protected until God's word came to pass?



"Can I Push It?"

Pastor Wesley stated that there are no big or little sins. As we engage daily with stories of political and social injustice, how does your spiritual understanding of your sinful nature inform how you process the actions of political and social adversaries?

Spirit Work:

At times, we have secretly or openly thought some people's lifestyles or sins made them unworthy. This week's message showed us that Jesus views all of our sins the same. What viewpoints or behaviors toward others do you want the Holy Spirit to help you change?



Activity:

The Forgiveness Bowl:

Place a large bowl in the center of your group. Pass around index cards so that each group member has at least 5. Have each Villager write down on each card one thing they are struggling to forgive themselves for. Have everyone fold the cards and place them all in the bowl. After shaking the bowl each Villager can take a turn picking a card out of the bowl and reading it. After a card is read the entire Village will say collectively, "You are worthy of forgiveness."

*Note to Facilitators: Please open and close this activity in prayer.

Additional Question for Married Couples Villages:

1. How can you position your heart and mind to keep a posture of forgiveness and unconditional love toward your spouse? How has their forgiveness changed or affected you?
2. Jesus acknowledges the betrayal but never exposes the betrayer. Using Jesus' example of grace and confidentiality, how do you cover your spouse's sins and shortcomings from family and friends? Does your marriage experience growth as a result of addressing issues between the two of you as opposed to having outside influence and advice? When is it appropriate to get an outside perspective?

Additional Question for Young Adult Villages:

1. There is nothing you have done or will do that is not forgiven by the shed blood of Jesus Christ. While forgiveness was offered to Judas, he did not choose to receive it. What is hindering you from accepting and receiving God's forgiveness?
2. Have you ever been convicted after an internal examination of your private sin and realized that you're deeper in sin than you thought? How did this self-conviction affect your interactions with other people whose sins were publicly known?

Additional Questions for Parents' Villages:

How do you prepare your children and family for communion Sunday? Invite your children to identify ways they want to prepare their minds and hearts for communion before going to church service. For parents who want to deliver the message of salvation to their children, see the guide below.

Guide:

Judas was offered the gift of forgiveness for his sin but he didn't take it. Present the message of salvation clearly to your children so that they too can participate in the Lord's Supper. Help them to acknowledge their sin, admit their need for salvation, and trust Jesus Christ as their Savior with a sincere heart – John 3:16.

- Define sin as anything that displeases God. Tell them you have sinned and provide age-appropriate examples.
- Explain that Jesus died on the cross for your sin, meaning He took the punishment for you.
- Invite your child to respond by believing that only Jesus has the power to cleanse, and forgive your sins which leads to life forever (everlasting life) with God someday.
- Pray the prayer of salvation with them: Lord Jesus, I **invite** You into my life. I **believe** You died for me and that Your blood pays for my sins and provides me with the gift of eternal life. By faith, I **receive** that gift, and I **acknowledge** You as my Lord and Savior. Amen. Read John 5:24.

Additional Questions for Women Villages:

1. Consider the special ways God specifically shows love for women of God. Then, encourage one another in pairs/group with how you've been blessed and ways you've released feelings of guilt and received God's forgiveness.
2. Pastor Wesley preached that every Christian needs a spiritual MRI for self-reflection about our sins. At what times are you more willing to identify another's sin instead of your own?